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Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Mongolia, Panama and Thailand: draft resolution

Cooperatives in social development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/90 of 16 December 1992, 49/155 of 23 December 1994, 51/58 of 12 December 1996 and 54/123 of 17 December 1999, in which it requested the Secretary-General to seek views from Governments on the draft guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives[1] and to provide, if necessary, a revised version for adoption,

Recognizing that cooperatives, in their various forms, are becoming a major factor of economic and social development by promoting the fullest possible participation in the development process of all people, including women, youth, older persons and people with disabilities,

Recognizing also the important contribution and potential of all forms of cooperatives to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996, and the World Food Summit, held at Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996, including their five-year reviews,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperatives in social development;[2]

[1] A/54/57, annex.
[2] A/56/73-E/2001/68.

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2. *Approves* the revised draft guidelines[3] aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives as a set of general principles to be considered by Member States in developing or revising their national policies on cooperatives;

3. *Invites* Governments to keep under review, as appropriate, the legal, judicial and administrative provisions governing the activities of cooperatives with a view to ensuring a supportive environment for them to be on an equal footing with other forms of enterprise and protecting and advancing the potential of cooperatives to help their members achieve individual goals as well as to contribute to society's broader aspirations;

4. *Urges* Governments, relevant international organizations and specialized agencies, in collaboration with national and international cooperative organizations, to give due consideration to the role and contribution of cooperatives in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the World Food Summit, and their five-year reviews, by, inter alia:

(a) Utilizing and developing fully the potential and contribution of cooperatives for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment and the enhancement of social integration;

(b) Encouraging and facilitating the establishment and development of cooperatives, including taking measures aimed at enabling people living in poverty or belonging to vulnerable groups to engage on a voluntary basis in the creation and development of cooperatives;

(c) Taking appropriate measures aimed at creating a supportive and enabling environment for the development of cooperatives by, inter alia, developing an effective partnership between Governments and the cooperative movement;

5. *Invites* Governments, in collaboration with the cooperative movement, to develop programmes to promote and strengthen professional cooperative management and to create or improve statistical databases on the development of cooperatives and on their contribution to national economies;

6. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, specialized agencies and local, national and international cooperative organizations to continue to observe the International Day of Cooperatives annually, on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/90;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations and other international organizations, national, regional and international cooperative organizations, to render support to Member States, as appropriate, in their efforts to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives and promote an exchange of experience and best practices, through, inter alia, the organization of conferences, workshops and seminars at the national, subregional and regional levels;

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[3] Ibid., annex.

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to bring the above-mentioned revised draft guidelines to the attention of all Member States and to prepare, in consultation with Member States and relevant United Nations and other international organizations, a report on the implementation of the present resolution with an emphasis on the role of cooperatives in poverty reduction, and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.